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ST. AUSTELL

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTORS

for the

YEAR 1946

ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
1946

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ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Austell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December, 1946.

This report is the thirteenth covering the enlarged St. Austell Urban District which has an area of 18,288 acres and an estimated population of 22,410 people.

Briefly the year 1946 passed fairly smoothly without undue ill-health or any abnormal anxieties. The housing shortage continued to be acute but the erection of fifty prefabricated houses at Thornpark, St. Austell, was completed during the year and ninety-six other permanent houses were commenced.

The vital statistics for the year are of interest. The death rate and the birth rate are higher than for 1945, while the number of infectious diseases notified viz: 118 shows a considerable decrease on the previous year when the figure was 390.

Considered in detail the various items of the Report are as follows:-

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.....	18,288 acres.
Estimated Population	22,410.
Inhabitated houses..	6787.
Rateable value.....	£113,911.
Product of 1d rate..	£452-12-0d.
General Rate	15/8 in the £.
Water Rate	2/- in the £.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Table 1 on page 6 gives the vital statistics for the district compared with

(a) England and Wales.
(b) London.
(c) 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns.
(d) 148 smaller towns.

Considered in detail the figures for the St. Austell Urban District are as follows:-

Deaths.

The death rate for 1946 is 15.1 per thousand of population. This is an increase on the previous year when the rate was 14.81 per thousand and is higher than for England and Wales which for 1946 is 11.5 per thousand.

Births.

The birth rate for 1946 is 17.4 this figure being higher than the previous year but is lower than that for England and Wales viz: 19.1 per thousand. A total of 391 live births were registered during the year 204 males and 187 females. A total of 22 of these births were illegitimate viz: 13 males and 9 females.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 15 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 11 males and 4 females giving an infantile mortality rate of 37 per thousand registered births & 38 per 1000 live births, these rates being lower than for the past year viz: 53 per thousand and 55 per thousand respectively. Particulars of each death under 1 year is recorded in Table 3 on page 7.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the past year infectious disease notifications were received as follows:-

Scarlet fever	37
Diphtheria.....	12
Pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	4
Whooping Cough	37
Measles	12
Pulmonary tuberculosis	10
Puerperal pyrexia	2
Polio-myelitis	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1
TOTAL	118

Scarlet Fever.

37 cases of scarlet fever occured during the year as against a total of 41 in 1945. All the cases with one exception were isolated at home and terminal disinfection carried out after the period of isolation. The patient removed to the Truro Infectious Disease Hospital was living in overcrowded conditions where proper isolation was impossible. There were no deaths from scarlet fever during the year.

Diphtheria.

There were twelve cases of diphtheria notified during 1946, all patients being removed to the Truro I.D.H. for proper treatment. There was one death from diphtheria, this being a child of 1 year 9 months who was living in a dilapidated and overcrowded house at Bethel.

During the year 373 children under 5 years of age were inoculated against diphtheria. 108 received a reinforcement injection. This number must be increased considerably in order to maintain adequate protection to the child population.

Tuberculosis.

There were ten cases of tuberculosis notified during 1946, all ten being of the pulmonary type, this figure being a decrease of two on the previous year. There were nine deaths from tuberculosis of which four were males and five females. The average age at death of males was 40 and of females 25, as compared with last year when the ages were 36 and 44 respectively.

Outpatient treatment of tuberculosis patients is carried out at the local centre established by the Cornwall County Council while cases requiring sanatorium treatment are sent to the County Sanatorium at Tehidy, Camborne.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regs. 1925-30.

No action was required to be taken under the provisions of these Regulations in order to exclude persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

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Public Health Act 1936 - Section 172.

No action was necessary relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the local authority and their qualifications are given on the first page of this report.

Details of the health services of the area are as follows:-

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

There are no laboratory facilities provided in the district by the Cornwall County Council.

Bacteriological examinations of sputum for tubercle bacilli and of swabs for diphtheria bacilli are carried out by myself. During the year 1946 the following bacteriological examinations were carried out:-

Swabs.....	201
Sputums.....	19
TOTAL	220

Bacteriological specimens other than for tuberculosis or diphtheria have to be sent to private laboratories and paid for by the medical practitioner concerned. Blood to be tested for Wasserman reaction and enteric fever is done free of cost by the Cornwall County Council.

Samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to Dr. Hocking, County Pathologist, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is a well-equipped and trained Ambulance Detachment which conveys patients from all parts of the area to the District Hospital and also to other hospitals outside the district. There are now two cars one of which is available for infectious cases. The Ambulance services are utilised to a great extent and, as the services of the men are given entirely voluntarily their ability and spirit of service deserves the highest commendation.

(c) Nursing in the home.

The St. Austell Nursing Association and other district association affiliated to the Cornwall County Nursing Association undertake this work and their services are very much appreciated.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are two local clinics established by the Cornwall County Council. The clinic in Moorland Road is used for numerous health services under the direction of the County Council viz: Ante-natal, minor ailments, orthapaedic infant welfare, dental, eye and psychiatric. The building has also been permanently staffed as a civil defence (fixed) First Aid Post and the First Aid Post staff assisted with the minor ailments. There is also a tuberculosis dispensary in the area and a Veneral Disease clinic.

(c) Hospitals - Public & Voluntary.

The St. Austell and District Hospital is the only voluntary hospital in the district. This does excellent work dealing largely with acute surgical cases, accident cases and grave medical cases which cannot be properly nursed at home. The number of beds approx. 30 and over 1,000 a year receive treatment. There is another hospital for patients under the charge of the Public Assistance Committee.

(f) Mortuary Facilities.

Mortuary facilities are at present still limited to a small mortuary at Par.

Consequent on the refusal of the Ministry of Health to authorise the Council to proceed with the erection of a mortuary in St. Austell, a proposal for provision of a mortuary by conversion of a casual ward at St. Austell Public Assistance Institution has been put forward. No agreement with the Cornwall County Council has yet been reached on this scheme but meanwhile the need for a mortuary in St. Austell is unsatisfied.

5. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) Water Supply.

During 1946 a full supply of water was maintained throughout the Council's area and the mains were extended in Bugle, Mevagissey, Penwithick and St.Blazey to supply new housing estates.

Weekly sampling of both sources and supply for bacteriological examination was continued as in past years, in no cases of supply were bad reports received.

The water supply generally in the district is soft and in many cases the silica content provides a natural check on plumbo-solvency. Lead pipes are not used on drinking supplies, galvanised water or copper tubing being the standard material used throughout the district.

Of a total of approximately 7320 dwellinghouses in the district approx. 7160 are served by main water supplies, only a very few now draw from standpipes.

Schemes for the renewal of mains in various parts of the area are at present being prepared and the work will be proceeded with as soon as permission is received from the Minister.

(b) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No change took place during the year in the systems of sewerage and sewage disposal with the exception of small extensions to the new housing sites.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The refuse collection service has been maintained at normal standards in conjunction with salvage and the separate collection and sterilization of kitchen waste for stock feeding. The refuse tip at St.Blazey Gate has been filled and during the year a land reclamation scheme has been started at Par.

6. HOUSING - SLUM CLEARANCE.

Detailed accounts of activities relative to housing and reconditioning are given in the Sanitary Inspectors' report which is appended hereto.

During the year 50 prefabricated houses were erected and schemes for the erection of further 96 houses well advanced.

The total of houses now in the possession of the Council is 736.

7. THE GROVE, CHARLESTOWN.

The Sick Bay at the Grove, Charlestown continued its good work during the year and dealt with a large number of cases.

8. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the courtesy and kindness again extended to me by the Council during the year and also my grateful thanks are due to my colleagues Messrs.Saunders, Watts and Sturtridge for their co-operation and valued assistance.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed). T.C.HOUSTON

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE NO 1.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Rates per 1000 population		Annual Death-rate per 1000 population								Rates per 1000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births	ALL CAUSES	Typhoid & Para-typhoid fevers	Scarlet Fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Smallpox	Measles	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	Total deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales	19.1	0.53	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.15	0.00	0.00	4.4	43
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	22.2	0.67	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.13	0.00	0.01	6.1	46
148 Smaller Towns (Resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	21.3	0.59	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.14	0.00	0.00	2.8	37
London Administrative County	21.5	0.54	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.00	0.01	4.2	41
ST. AUSTELL	17.4	0.62	15.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	2.6	38

TABLE NO 2

TOTAL DEATHS.

	M	F
ALL CAUSES	180	160
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fevers	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	1
6. Respiratory tuberculosis	5	7
7. Other tuberculosis	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	1
9. Influenza	2	3
10. Measles	-	-
11. Cancer	24	23
12. Diabetes	3	3
13. Cerebral haemorrhage	9	18
14. Heart Diseases	49	63
15. Encephalitis lethargica	-	-
16. Various circulatory diseases	7	2
17. Bronchitis	9	10
18. Pneumonia	5	3
19. Other respiratory diseases	6	-
20. Peptic ulcer	-	-
21. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1
22. Appendicitis	1	1
23. Other digestive diseases	5	2
24. Acute and chronic nephritis	5	6
25. Puerperal sepsis	-	-
26. Other puerperal diseases	-	-
27. Congenital debility, premature birth etc.	10	2
28. Suicide	3	-
29. Road traffic accidents	3	1
30. Other violent causes	4	-
31. All other causes	28	12
32. Acute polio-myelitis	1	-

TABLE NO 3

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1946.

Causes of death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 4 wks	1-3 mhs	3-6 mhs	6-9 mhs	9-12 mhs	Total under 12 mhs
Gastro-Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cardiac Failure	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Anencephalous	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Uraemia	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Icterus Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Intussusception	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital Hydrocephelous	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxiation	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
	9	1	-	-	10	3	1	1	-	14

TABLE NO 4

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1946

Age periods	New cases. Respiratory		Non-resp;		Deaths Respiratory		Non-resp:	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
25 - 35	2	2	-	-	1	3	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	4	-	-	4	5	-	-

TABLE NO 5

RAINFALL FOR 1946

Month	Rainfall	No. of days on which rain fell.	Largest fall in 24 hours.
January	5.78	16	.76
February	4.60	17	1.11
March	3.18	13	.99
April	1.75	10	.57
May	4.93	20	.72
June	3.36	21	.47
July	2.72	19	.69
August	6.17	25	1.32
September	6.87	21	1.30
October	4.06	10	1.30
November	7.02	20	1.57
December	6.42	20	1.34
TOTAL	56.86	212	
TOTAL 1945	45.39	195	